

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 048750
ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /011 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/IRN: C W NAAS:RR
APPROVED BY NEA/IRN: C W NAAS
-----042125 260511Z /21
R 242158Z FEB 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:PFOR, IR

SUBJECT: SENATE HEARINGS ON G. WILLIAM MILLER

1. LETTERS TO THREE INDIVIDUALS INVITING THEM TO APPEAR
BEFORE SENATE COMMITTEE (PRECHT TELCON) HAVE BEEN DELIVERED
TO IRANIAN EMBASSY HERE UNDER COVER OF DIPLOMATIC NOTE.
FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF LETTER:

2. BEGIN TEXT:

PRESIDENT CARTER HAS NOMINATED G. WILLIAM MILLER, CHAIRMAN
OF THE BOARD OF TEXTRON, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF
GOVERNORS OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM. THE FEDERAL
RESERVE IS THIS NATION'S CENTRAL BANK.

UNDER THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES, THE U.S.
SENATE MUST GIVE ITS ADVICE AND CONSENT TO THE PRESIDENT'S
NOMINATION. THIS IS USUALLY REFERRED TO AS THE
CONFIRMATION PROCESS. THE BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN
AFFAIRS COMMITTEE IS THE COMMITTEE OF THE SENATE WHICH HAS
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JURISDICTION OVER THE NOMINATION AND CONFIRMATION OF G.
WILLIAM MILLER. UNDER THE PROCEDURES OF THIS COMMITTEE,

G. WILLIAM MILLER TESTIFIED ON HIS OWN BEHALF ON
JANUARY 24, 1978.

DURING THE COURSE OF MR. MILLER'S TESTIMONY, A QUESTION

WAS RAISED ABOUT A PAYMENT OF \$2.9 MILLION BY BELL HELICOPTER, A DIVISION OF TEXTRON, TO AIR TAXI IN CONNECTION WITH THE SALE OF 489 HELICOPTERS TO IRAN DURING THE PERIOD OF 1973-1975. IT WAS ALLEGED THAT GENERAL MOHAMMED KHATAMI HAD AN OWNERSHIP INTEREST IN AIR TAXI.

THE COMMITTEE HAS BEEN CONDUCTING AN INVESTIGATION INTO FACTS SURROUNDING BELL'S PAYMENT TO AIR TAXI, INCLUDING WHAT KNOWLEDGE TEXTRON AND BELL HELICOPTER OFFICIALS, INCLUDING G. WILLIAM MILLER, MAY HAVE HAD RESPECTING GENERAL KHATAMI'S OWNERSHIP INTEREST IN AIR TAXI.

IT HAS COME TO THE ATTENTION OF THIS COMMITTEE THAT YOU POSSESS IMPORTANT INFORMATION THAT WOULD BE RELEVANT TO THE COMMITTEE'S INVESTIGATION. BECAUSE OF THE IMPORTANCE OF YOUR TESTIMONY, THIS COMMITTEE REQUESTS YOUR APPEARANCE AT A HEARING TO BE CONDUCTED IN RESPECT TO THESE MATTERS AS IT RELATES TO THE NOMINATION OF G. WILLIAM MILLER DURING THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 25 THROUGH MARCH 4. THE HEARING WILL BE HELD IN ROOM 5300 OF THE NEW SENATE OFFICE BUILDING IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

THE COMMITTEE UNANIMOUSLY AGREED TO MAKE THIS REQUEST FOR YOUR VOLUNTARY APPEARANCE BECAUSE IT FELT THIS TO BE A MATTER INVOLVING THE HIGHEST NATIONAL INTEREST. THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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COMMITTEE WILL PAY YOUR TOURIST AIR FARE AND REASONABLE EXPENSES WHEN YOU APPEAR AND TESTIFY. IN RESPONSE TO THIS REQUEST, I WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR CALLING MR. CHARLES L. MARINACCIO, SPECIAL COUNSEL TO THIS COMMITTEE, COLLECT AT 202-224-7391 OR 202-224-1571.

I THANK YOU IN ADVANCE FOR YOUR COOPERATION WITH THE WORK OF THIS COMMITTEE OF THE UNITED STATES SENATE. SINCERELY, (SGD) WILLIAM PROXMIRE, CHAIRMAN.END TEXT. VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NOMINATION, CIVIL AVIATION, US CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS, NAME CHECKS (SECURITY), BUSINESS FIRMS, HELICOPTERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 feb 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE048750
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: C W NAAS:RR
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780088-0927
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780214/aaaaalsm.tel
Line Count: 103
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: f6b1b5cf-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3480795
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SENATE HEARINGS ON G. WILLIAM MILLER
TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, EFIN, MASS, IR, FRB, AIR TAXI CO, (MILLER, G WILLIAM)
To: TEHRAN
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/f6b1b5cf-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014